

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 06525 292102Z
ACTION SS-25

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FOR ARA, D, P AND L ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, CI
SUBJECT: LETELIER/MOFFITT ASSASSINATION CASE: INQUIRY INTO
PRATS MURDER

1. AT THEIR REQUEST MARIA ANGELICA PRATS DE CASTRO AND
SOFIA PRATS DE CUADRADO TALKED TO THE POLITICAL CONSELOR
AUGUST 29. THE TWO WOMEN ARE DAUGHTERS OF GENERAL CARLOS
PRATS, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE CHILEAN ARMY PRIOR TO BEING
REPLACED BY PINOCHET IN AUGUST 1973. PRATS AND HIS WIFE
WENT TO BUENOS AIRES TO LIVE AFTER ALLENDE WAS OUSTED AND
BOTH WERE KILLED WHEN A BOMB DESTROYED THEIR CAR
SEPTEMBER 30, 1974.

2. THE SISTERS PRATS SAID THEY HAVE READ OR HEARD FROM
A NUMBER OF SOURCES THAT MICHAEL TOWNLEY WAS ALSO INVOLVED
IN THE ASSASSINATION OF THEIR PARENTS. THEY BELIEVE THAT
SOME OF THE TESTIMONY THAT TOWNLEY HAS GIVEN TO US LAW
ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS OR BEFORE THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
GRAND JURY MAY SHED LIGHT ON THEIR PARENTS' DEATH. THEY
ASKED IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO THEM

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OR TO THEIR LAWYER, ANY SUCH INFORMATION OR TESTIMONY --
EVEN IF IT WERE ONLY NEWSPAPER ARTICLES REPORTING THE
SUPPOSED EXISTENCE OF SUCH INFORMATION.

3. THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR SAID HE WOULD REPORT THEIR
REQUEST BUT HE WAS NOT AWARE THAT TOWNLEY HAD GIVEN ANY
TESTIMONY ALONG THE LINES INDICATED, AND HE DOUBTED, IF

HE HAD, THAT IT COULD BE PROVIDED TO THEM OR THEIR LAWYER.
POLCONS EXPLAINED THE NECESSARY FOCUS OF US JUDICIAL ACTIONS ON THE LETELIER/MOFFITT ASSASSINATIONS. WITH RESPECT TO NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS, POLCONS SUGGESTED THAT THE BEST COURSE MIGHT BE TO HAVE A FRIEND IN WASHINGTON, D.C., SEND COPIES OF ALL ARTICLES APPEARING IN THE LOCAL PAPERS.
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